



# The ISC Newsletter

International Society of Cryptozoology

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## Walla Walla Casts Show Dermal Ridges

Significant new evidence supporting the hypothesis that large, unknown primates exist in North America (generally referred to as Sasquatch or Bigfoot) has been uncovered in connection with the Walla Walla incidents reported in the Summer 1982, issue of the Newsletter.

ISC members will recall that, on June 10, 1982, U.S. Forest Service patrolman Paul Freeman, while tracking elk in the northern part of Oregon's Blue Mountains (part of the Umatilla National Forest), reportedly encountered a Sasquatch on an old logging road near Tiger Creek. Twenty-one footprints were deposited, and casts were made by the Forest Service and by Oregon search-and-rescue official Art Snow. About 40 new

tracks were found on June 16 in the nearby Mill Creek Watershed (on the Washington side of the border), which is closed to the public. Both sites are on land supervised by the Ranger District Office in Walla Walla, Washington, which has been collaborating fully with the Society.

These events happened almost in the "backyard" of Grover S. Krantz, the ISC Board member who specializes in Sasquatch footprint casts and their anatomical reconstructions. Ironically, Dr. Krantz, a physical anthropologist at Washington State University in Pullman, was in Beijing at the time, discussing Wildman investigations with Chinese scientists.

Upon his return to Washington, Dr. Krantz visited



U.S. Forest Service casts of the left foot of one individual involved in the Walla Walla Sasquatch events. The smaller cast (upper) was made at the Freeman sighting location on June 10, 1982. The larger cast was made at the Mill Creek Watershed location on June 16, 1982. Notice the splayed-out deformity of the second toe on both casts and the different spacings between the toes, indicating a natural, flexible foot. Both casts show dermal ridges.



the Walla Walla Ranger District Office, generally substantiated the information given in the **Summer Newsletter** and was loaned the five Forest Service casts from both sites. He also met with Art Snow and borrowed his cast from the Tiger Creek site. Dr. Krantz has carefully analyzed all the casts, and, in his opinion, the casts, the footprints, and the sighting correspond to a genuine Sasquatch event; that is, an event involving a large, unknown (and bipedal) primate.

Two Sasquatches are believed to be involved. One individual was the one observed by Freeman near Tiger Creek (one from the Forest Service and one from Art Snow). The second toe of the left foot is peculiarly splayed out, indicating a slight deformity. Footprints of the ~~same~~ individual were found several days later in the Mill Creek Watershed; one left foot cast is available, and the same second-toe deformity is visible. These Watershed tracks were found in association with tracks from a **second** individual (which was never observed); three casts are available, two of the right foot and one of the left.

The most significant line of evidence related to these casts is that they **all** show dermal ridges, the individual lines present in human fingerprints or toeprints. This is the first time that "toeprints" have clearly appeared on Sasquatch casts, although Dr. Krantz believes that he has seen slight indications of them on other casts -- never enough to make a case of. The reason these new tracks and casts show ridges, it is thought, is because of the extremely fine soil of eastern Washington State, coupled with the right climatic conditions, and the fact that the casts were made almost immediately after the tracks were deposited.

The ridges, which are found on other parts of the feet apart from the toes, are extremely detailed. What appear to be sweat glands are also visible under magnification. Curiously, the ridges



U.S. Forest Service casts of the left and right feet of a second individual. These casts were made in the Mill Creek Watershed on June 16, 1982. The animal itself was not sighted. Both casts show dermal ridges.

visible in the Watershed tracks were one of the reasons that U.S. Border Patrol tracker Joel Hardin dismissed the tracks as hoaxes (see **Summer Newsletter**). Only humans have fingerprints, he reasoned, therefore Sasquatch -- an animal -- would not have them. Anybody familiar with non-human primates, however, would know that they **do** leave prints (as, in fact, do some other arboreal mammals).

Dr. Krantz has provided the Editor with the following information, based on his examination of the casts:

Both individuals have feet about 15 inches (38 cm.) long; the toes are generally more equal in size than is found in humans; the arches of the feet are almost flat (as shown in other Sasquatch casts); and the "double-ball" observed in other casts shows in some of the new casts. Further forensic study has been undertaken by Benny Kling, a dermatology specialist at the Law Enforcement Agency in Douglas, Wyoming. Upon careful examination, Kling found that:

- 1) parts of the dermal



patterns are reversed on the left and right feet of one of the individuals. This mirror image is **not** exact, as is the case in real fingerprints,

2) the same individual shows a presumed genetic deformity - an incipient development of an extra toe off the fifth toe -- hardly the work of an individual attempting to make a "perfect hoax;"

3) parts of the foot which should be worn smooth of dermal ridges are so worn on both individuals (as happens, for example, when keeping apes in cement enclosures), indicating that both individuals have walked barefoot for a long time; such highly-specialized knowledge of primate dermal wear patterns would probably not be known to a potential hoaxer;

4) in addition, both individuals show a failure to develop proper dermal ridges -- a condition found also in humans;

5) this failure in ridge development prevents the normal pattern of parallel lines; instead, ridges are observed in small, irregular bits over large areas; and

6) ridge failure occurs in certain areas, not all, as is the case in real primate feet with ridge failure; the "ridge failure areas" occur in the correct places, an almost impossible fact for even a sophisticated hoaxer to predict.

Added to the above is Dr. Krantz' conclusion that the feet are functional for walking bipedally, and are designed to sustain a weight of perhaps 600 pounds. Certain-

ly, the evidence is impressive, so much so that Grover Krantz calls it the strongest Sasquatch case on record. In a brief, preliminary report to the Editor, he concluded: "This is an unknown, higher primate of the hominid locomotor design; no other interpretation is possible if the data are analyzed carefully. General acceptance by other anthropologists, however, is not likely."

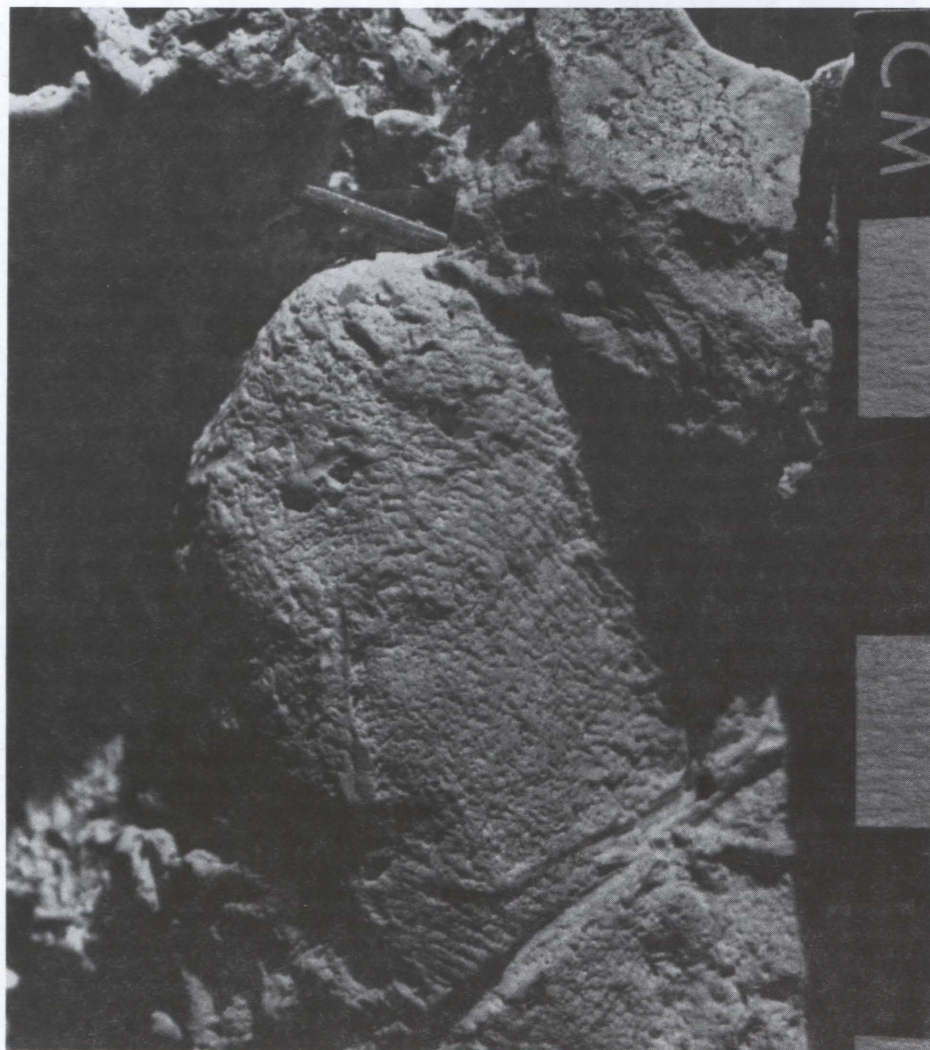
As Dr. Krantz worked with these data, and began discussions with other specialists about possible publication of a scientific paper, Paul LeBlond, another ISC Board member, came up with upper and lower bounds for the size of the Lake Champlain Monster (see separate article, this issue). Consequently, it was decided to give a press conference in conjunction with a special Board of Directors meeting to be held at the University of British Columbia on October 22 (see separate article, this issue).

Participating in the Vancouver press conference were Krantz, LeBlond (who organized the meeting), ISC Vice President Roy Mackal, ISC Secretary and Editor Richard Greenwell, and Board member Forrest Wood. Also present were a number of ISC members from the Vancouver-Seattle area, notably Rene Dahinden. About 50 newsmen and newswomen attended the meeting, including British Columbia Television. Despite some cynical questions, press reception was generally fair and balanced. In retrospect, it is felt that the information released was perhaps too technical for the press to absorb and convert to "quick" news stories.

To summarize, the Walla Walla case has the following forms of evidence supporting it:

1) an actual sighting by a Forest Service patrolman (besides the danger involved, how could one of the hoaxers have predicted where and when to show himself to the witness in the forest?);

2) the footprints were over an inch deep in fairly hard ground (how could a tall hoaxer have achieved that



Close-up photograph of the second toe on cast of left foot of second individual. Note clear ridges, as seen in human fingerprints. Cast material surrounding the toe should be ignored.



depth while walking in a costume and being observed by a witness?);

3) most of the footprints were found in an area closed and inaccessible to the public (how could hoaxers have entered the area, and why would they go to such a remote area, where the tracks would most likely never be found?);

4) dermal ridges were visible in the tracks prior to the casts being made (rules out subsequent engraving of the casts);

5) variations in the spacings between the toes were visible in different tracks (which rules out the use of carved, wooden feet);

6) the casts were made by Forest Service personnel, who are federal employees (unlikely hoaxers);

7) dermal ridges and sweat glands are visible on the casts (they could not be hoaxed, according to several dermatoglyphics experts);

8) the ridge pattern appears to be that of a higher primate, but it is not human or known ape (unlikely for the hoaxers to know);

9) the patterns are almost mirror images on the left and right feet, which is as they should be (unlikely for the hoaxers to know);

10) ridge wear occurs where it should occur on the feet (unlikely for the hoaxers to know);

11) failure of ridge development is apparent (unlikely for the hoaxers to know);

12) ridge failure does not occur all over the feet, which is as it should be (unlikely for the hoaxers to know);

13) two physical deformations can be noted (unlikely for the hoaxers to attempt).

It is certainly not physically impossible to perpetrate such a hoax, given enough professional expertise, talent, time, and money. At the very least, experts in human and non-human primate anatomy/biomechanics, costume design and construction, engraving, civil or mechanical engineering, and dermatoglyphics would have had to have worked together as a

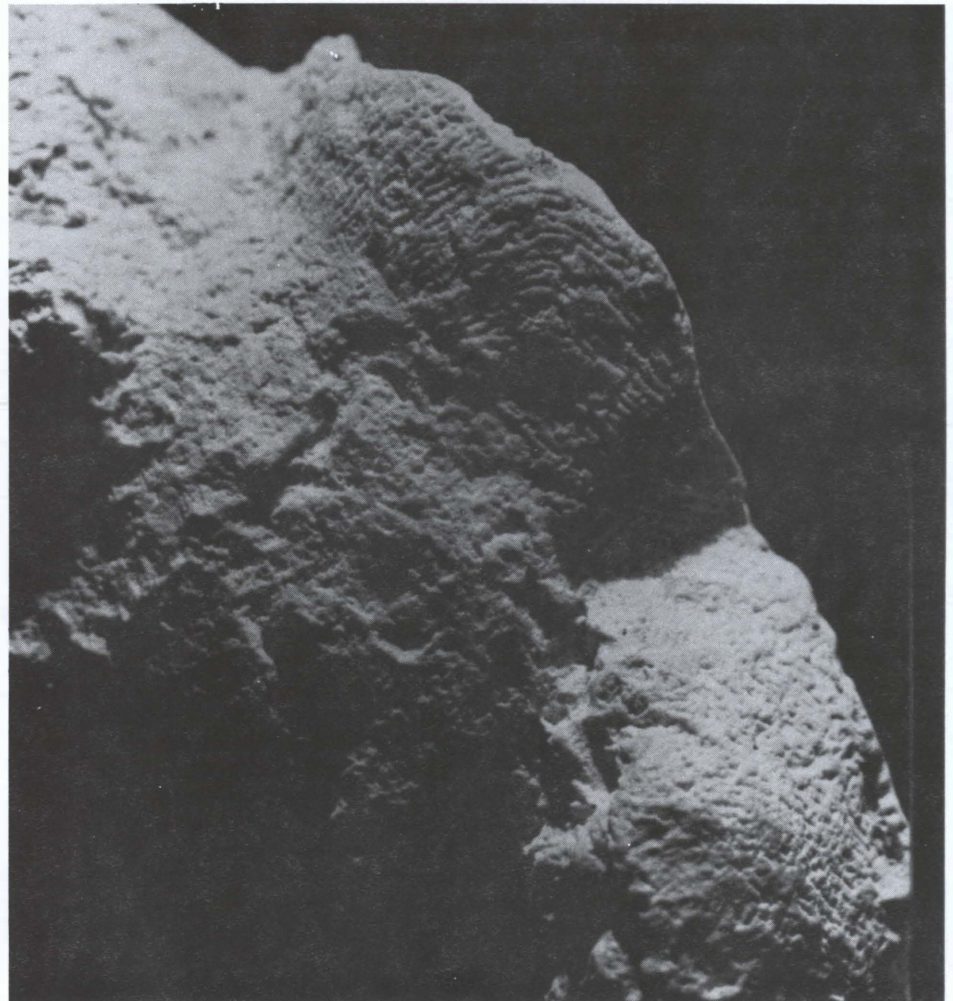
team. One has to weigh the likelihood of such a conspiratorial scenario, however unlikely, against the likelihood of a living primate unknown to science, however unlikely.

Even Joel Hardin, the U.S. Border Patrol tracker who thinks the whole case is hoaxed, now acknowledges that "this is not the usual kind of hoax perpetrated by someone sitting around having a beer...and concocts it the next day." In a statement to the press, he said: "It was very carefully thought out, and the implement used to make the track was very well engineered...it wasn't done in 15 minutes...it was done by somebody familiar with the area and the legends and stories, and careful consideration given to past experiences. They went to a lot of trouble...even before they

got in there to make the tracks."

Freeman, the witness, is reported to be actively searching for Sasquatch (with firearms) since leaving the Forest Service. He states that he feels vindicated by Dr. Krantz's finding, but he also reportedly stated: "I'm going to find one of them. I'm going to rub this right in their noses."

Dr. Krantz, meanwhile, is communicating with a number of leading physical and paleoanthropologists and forensic specialists to determine their interest in the case. His hope is to combine professional talents with other experts for an in-depth study of the casts, and eventually publicize the data. Further information will be made available in future Newsletters.



Close-up photograph of fifth toe on same cast of left foot of second individual. Note that ridges also appear on the deformed development of a sixth toe.



## Champ Photo Analysis Supports Animal Hypothesis

An ISC Board member, Paul H. LeBlond, has been able to determine the maximum and minimum sizes of the Lake Champlain Monster (Champ) as seen in the Mansi photograph (see Newsletter, Summer, 1982). Previous attempts by University of Arizona optician B. Roy Frieden and ISC Secretary J. Richard Greenwell to develop an equation which would give a size estimate were unsuccessful.

Working with the original color print, LeBlond, a physical oceanographer at the University of British Columbia, approached the problem from a totally different perspective: he studied the nature of the waves in the photograph. The general appearance of the lake surface in the photograph corresponds to a Beaufort 3 wind speed (winds of 12-19 km/hr, or 3.4-5.4 m/sec), so it can be assumed that the waves were traveling (at most at 4 m/sec), and that their length will be (at most) that corresponding to the speed (wave speed increases with wave length). By means of various calculations, Dr. LeBlond was then able to empirically produce upper and lower bound waterline size estimates.

Initially, the upper bound was estimated at 24 meters (almost 78 feet), and the lower bound at 7.5 meters (almost 25 feet). Calculations were later refined, and the upper bound is now placed at 17.2 meters (almost 56 feet), and the lower bound at 4.8 meters (almost 16 feet). It is important to note that the size of Champ is not given: the calculations merely state that it probably cannot be larger than 56 feet or smaller than 16 feet. Furthermore, these dimensions correspond to the visible waterline size of the supposed animal; presumably, more of the animal's body, hidden from the eye or the camera, remained beneath the water's surface.

Even taking into account a number of variables which could increase or decrease these upper and lower size estimates, it is apparent that the object appearing in the photograph is of significant size -- corresponding to the recalled perceptions of the witnesses -- which would have made a hoax very difficult to execute. This new analysis, therefore, lends further support to the "animal hypothesis."

Dr. LeBlond released his preliminary findings at an ISC press conference held on the University of British Columbia campus on October 22nd, held in conjunction with a special Board of Directors meeting (see related articles in this issue). His final results have been written up as a Research Report for the first issue of the Society's journal, *Cryptozology*, which will be mailed to ISC members in early 1983 (see related article in this issue).

In announcing his findings

at the Vancouver press conference, Dr. LeBlond stated that his analysis "...shows that this is not a small object...One can say that its much more difficult to create an object -- which one can wade out into the water with, dragging it over one's head -- which is about 20 feet long rather than five feet long. This [analysis] provides another way of obtaining information about this animal."

Forrest G. Wood, a U.S. Naval Ocean Systems Center marine biologist (who, as an ISC Board member, also attended the press conference), has studied the Mansi photograph and the circumstances surrounding the observation. In response to a press question, he stated: "I will tentatively accept that it was a living animal. In appearance, it most closely resembles a member of the long-extinct group known as the plesiosaurs. That does not make it a plesiosaur. All I can say is that, in



Paul H. LeBlond discussing his findings on the Champ photo (Mansi) at the ISC press conference held at the University of British Columbia. Left to right: Forrest Wood, Richard Greenwell, Roy Mackal, LeBlond, and Grover Krantz.



general appearance, it most closely resembles a plesiosaur, which was an aquatic reptile. I accept it was a living animal, but I can't say what kind."

While Dr. LeBlond pondered over the implications of his calculations, the New York Senate passed a Resolution "encouraging serious scientific inquiry into the existence of unusual animals in Lake Champlain, especially one commonly known as "Champ"; protecting Champ from any willful act resulting in death, injury, and harassment; and encouraging [the] report [of] sightings of such animals." Introduced by State Senator Ron Stafford, the Resolution, adopted on June 3, 1982, is identical to the one passed by the Vermont House of Representatives in March, 1982 (see *Newsletter*, Spring, 1982). Passage of similar resolutions by the Vermont Senate and the New York Assembly could occur in 1983.

Seemingly oblivious to the analyses and legislation surrounding it, Champ continued to show itself in different parts of Lake Champlain. Joseph Zarzynski, who runs the Lake Champlain Investigation, had logged seven 1982 sightings, by autumn. Perhaps the most significant event occurred on August 5, 1982, when "a big black animal, like a huge snake with three humps," was observed by the witnesses to ram a moored sailboat.

The observation began at 4:30 p.m. when 13-year old Dan Ormsky and 14-year old Shaw Elridge, while walking along the beach of King's Bay (near Rouses Point, New York), saw the unidentified animal swimming parallel to the shore about 300 feet out in shallow water. "The lake was calm and there wasn't a boat out there," said Elridge. "Then we saw these three big humps sticking out of the water. They were pure black." Ormsky stated: "You wouldn't see a head or a tail or anything -- just these three black humps."

While the object headed north, Ormsky ran to the road, 30 feet behind them, and flagged down a motorist,

58-year old Edward Sheldon, a Canadian resident of the local campsite, who jumped out of his pick-up truck and, with the boys, watched the object collide with the sailboat. "He told me there was something I had to see," Sheldon recalled. "I saw the humps just before it hit the boat. It hit the boat and made it rock from side to side. We all thought it was going to tip over. It hit it that hard. It's a big boat. Even if that thing was a big fish, it wouldn't have made the boat rock like that."

"It followed along the shoreline all the way," Sheldon added. "We watched it, the waves it was making in the water, as it turned back to the center of the lake, still going north. The lake was very calm. There wasn't a thing stirring, no wind, nothing. Very quiet." Although the witnesses had difficulty in estimating the size of the animal, they said it made the sailboat "look like a toy," and that the wake it left made some of the motorboats anchored off-shore bounce around in the water.

Although Sheldon and the two boys were the only witnesses to the collision, between 10 and 15 other campsite residents saw the wake and "a large, dark shadow just under the surface."

Several of these witnesses used binoculars, and one went to get a camera, but it was "too late." Sheldon, who has been a summer resident of King's Bay for four years, now believes in Champ: "It was in the papers, on T.V., and people were all talking about it. I really didn't believe in it. Now I do. I sure do. Now I've seen it myself. I believe it. I only wish I had had a camera with me," he added. "I'm just glad an adult saw it too," said Ormsky.

*Newsletter* readers will recall that Joyce Ruggles, a co-witness to a Champ sighting on July 19, had taken a photograph with an instamatic camera. The roll of film was developed by *Life* magazine's photo lab, but "there was nothing but normal vacation photos on the roll."

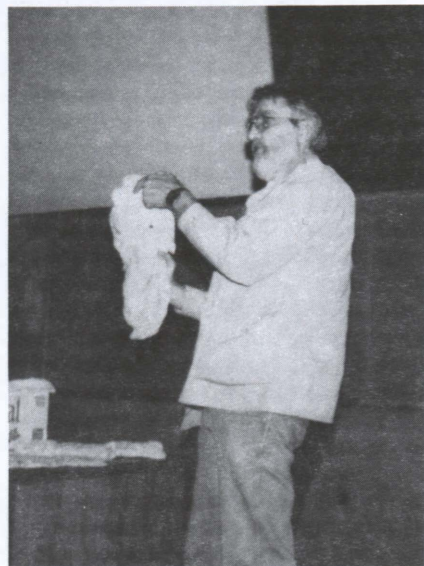
## Board of Directors Meets in Vancouver

A Special Meeting of the ISC Board of Directors was held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, on October 22, 1982, and a number of important decisions were made. Attending the meeting were Vice President Roy MacKall, Secretary and Editor of Publications Richard Greenwell, and Board members Grover Krantz, Paul LeBlond, and Forrest Wood. The meeting was hosted by the Department of Oceanography at the University of British Columbia, and Dr. LeBlond, of that department, chaired the session.

The following decisions were made at the one-day meeting:

1) To discontinue individual subscriptions to the Society's publications without membership. Few persons have enrolled as subscribers only, and the system has been confusing to some members and is cumbersome to administer. Beginning with 1983, the only way an individual may obtain the Society's publications will be by actually becoming a member (institutional subscribers, such as libraries, will not be affected).

2) To extend the 1982



Grover S. Krantz discussing Sasquatch evidence at a public forum at the University of British Columbia. He is holding a Walla Walla cast, being shown publicly for the first time.





ISC Board of Directors meeting in the Department of Oceanography of the University of British Columbia. Left to right: Roy Mackal, Paul LeBlond, Richard Greenwell, Forrest Wood, and Grover Krantz.

membership period to March 1, 1983, in order to allow members to receive the four newsletters and journal for 1982 prior to the request for membership renewal (see **Message from the Editor**, this issue).

3) To establish individual selling prices for the Society's publications as follows: **Individuals (whether Society members or not)** -- U.S. \$2.50 per **Newsletter** and U.S. \$15 per journal (this equals the membership cost of U.S. \$25); **Institutions and Libraries** -- U.S. \$3.50 per **Newsletter** and U.S. \$21 per journal (this equals the institutional subscription cost of U.S. \$35).

4) To approve the Okapi as the "symbol" for the Society, and to approve an Okapi logo design by artist Ron Quinn (see logo on front page, this issue).

5) To establish a mechanism through which the Society can sponsor expeditions or field work related to cryptozoology. (Further details on this will be published in the Winter **Newsletter**.)

6) To support ISC member Robert Downing in the publication and mailing of his **Eastern Cougar Newsletter** when U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service funding terminates, provided funds are available. (Further details will be published in a future **Newsletter**) 7) To produce small pamphlets on procedures and preservation techniques when unknown aquatic or terrestrial biological specimens are found. (Further details will be published in a future **Newsletter**.)

The Board of Directors felt that the Society has had a successful beginning, and that response from the scientific community has been generally positive. The Board also expressed approval of the appearance and contents of the **Newsletter**, but expressed a hope that news items relating to other parts of the world, not just North America, will gradually increase in number.

The Board also sponsored a press conference, arranged by Dr. LeBlond, at which he and Dr. Krantz announced their respective findings on the Lake Champlain Monster photo (Mansi), and the Walla Walla Sasquatch footprint casts (see separate articles, this issue). That evening, a public forum was held on the University of British Columbia campus, at which Dr. Mackal gave a slide talk on

the 1981 Congo expedition in search of Mokele Mbembe, and Dr. Krantz showed the Walla Walla casts publicly for the first time. The forum, moderated by Dr. LeBlond, generated many questions concerning different areas of cryptozoology.

Preparations are underway, meanwhile, for the Second Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors, to be held in New York City on June 10, 1983. Although the Board meeting itself will be "closed-door," a Membership Meeting will be held the next day, Saturday, June 11. Various informal talk/slide shows will be given, and a reception will be held. See **Message from the Editor**, this issue, for further details.

## Cryptozoology Editorial Board Established

Appointments to the Editorial Board of the Society's journal, **Cryptozoology**, have been completed. The individuals serving on the Board are:

Walter H. Birkly  
(forensic anthropology),  
Human Identification Laboratory,  
Arizona State Museum,  
University of Arizona, Tucson;

Eugene Clark (marine biology),  
Department of Zoology, University of Maryland, College Park;

David Heppell (mollusca),  
Department of Natural History,  
Royal Scottish Museum,  
Edinburgh;

Nicholas Hotton III  
(paleobiology),  
Department of Paleobiology,  
U.S. National Museum of Natural History,  
Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.;

John T. Robinson  
(paleoanthropology, evolution),  
Department of Zoology,  
University of Wisconsin,  
Madison;

Myra Shackley (archaeology),  
Department of Archaeology,  
University of Leicester,  
Leicester;



C. Levett Smith (ichthyology),  
Department of Ichthyology,  
American Museum of Natural  
History, New York;

Pascal Tassy  
(paleontology and taxonomy),  
Laboratory of Vertebrate and  
Human Paleontology,  
University of Paris VI, Paris.

The principal responsibility of Editorial Board members will be to review and referee articles, and to recommend on their publication. Although the Board represents a wide variety of disciplines -- indispensable for such an interdisciplinary topic such as cryptozoology -- the Editor may still approach other specialists, even non-members of the Society, for refereeing specific manuscripts.

Editor Richard Greenwell, meanwhile, has been working with several reviewers during the autumn, and has completed editorial work on the first issue of the journal, which is being published by Allen Press, of Lawrence, Kansas. Allen Press is the principal publisher of scientific journals in the life sciences, producing almost 150 journals (*Ecology*, *Evolution*, *Paleobiology*, *Herpetologica*, and the *Journal of Herpetology*, to name a few). Their support of the Society's publishing program will add considerable professionalism to the quality of the journal.

Volume 1 of *Cryptozoology*, which is likely to become a collector's item, will be mailed directly to Society members and subscribers by Allen Press in late February; it will have a Winter 1982 imprint and be part of the 1982 membership period. This first issue will contain six Articles, the first by Society President Bernard Heuvelmans entitled "What is Cryptozoology?" Other Articles will address the Wildman problem in China (Zhou Guo-xing) and sub-surface work at Loch Ness during the past decade (Robert Rives). The journal will also contain two Research Reports, three Field Reports, and seven Book Reviews. It will be illustrated with pho-

## Message From The Editor

Despite a several-month lapse in publications, the Society continues to grow. At year's end, the total number of memberships and subscriptions stood at almost 400, just 100 short of the required total to cover all annual operating expenses, including the publication of four newsletters and one journal. Fortunately, substantial donations by a Sustaining Member have alleviated the cash shortage experienced in the first year of operations. The second year will see lower operating costs and greater membership and subscriptions income.

The reason this (Autumn) newsletter is delayed is due to several factors unrelated to finances, the two principal ones being that we had to prepare for (and participate in) a special meeting of the Board of Directors, held in Vancouver in late October (see separate article in this issue), and we then became immersed in heavy editorial and publishing responsibilities in connection with the first issue of *Cryptozoology*, the Society's scholarly journal (see separate article in this issue). The journal will be mailed directly to members and subscribers by the publisher, Allen Press, of Lawrence, Kansas, in late February, probably about the same time that this Newsletter is received. The fourth (Winter, 1982) Newsletter should be mailed in March, but will be part of the 1982 membership. This delay means that membership renewal notices for 1983 will not be mailed until March. In order to simplify financial administration, members are requested not to renew until the receipt of the renewal notice in March, but to renew promptly upon receipt of such a

notice.

We believe that the quality of the four newsletters and the journal will be sufficient to induce most members to continue their affiliation with the Society, and to continue supporting its activities.

The year 1982 was a busy one for cryptozoology, at least in the United States, which has given the Society little time to organize itself. When the Board of Directors met in January, 1982 to found the Society, little was it realized that, within a few months, a Sasquatch event (Walla Walla) would become the strongest such evidence on record, or that Chessie would be videotaped for the first time, or that size parameters on the Lake Champlain Monster photo (Mansi) would be determined. The details of all these events appear within these pages. We promise that the curious timing of these events to coincide with the formation of the Society is entirely accidental!

Members should note that the Second Annual meeting of the Board of Directors will take place in New York City on June 10, 1982. A membership meeting (including talks, slide shows, and a cocktail party) will take place on Saturday, June 11, giving New York area members an opportunity to meet one another. Members from other geographic regions are, of course, welcome.

These meetings are being arranged by Board member Joseph Gennaro, Jr. of New York University. Further details may be obtained by calling him at (212) 598-3763 Office/677-1713 Residence.

J. Richard Greenwell  
Editor

tographs, maps, and tables.

The second volume of the journal (Winter 1983) will be published in December. Members are invited to submit manuscripts (only Articles will be refereed by outside reviewers).

The deadline for submission of manuscripts is September 1, 1983. Instructions to Contributors may be requested from the Editor, or may be found in Volume 1 of the journal.



## Honorary Members Elected

At its founding meeting in January of 1982, the Board of Directors decided to establish the category of Honorary Membership, and a number of individuals around the world were elected. Honorary Membership may be bestowed upon senior individuals who have directly or indirectly contributed to some facet of cryptozoology. Honorary Members have no specific responsibilities in, or obligations to, the Society, and do not pay membership dues.

The eight individuals who were elected to (and have accepted) Honorary Membership are: Andre Capart (Belgium); Marjorie Courtenay-Latimer (South Africa); David James (United Kingdom); Marie-Jean Koffmann (Soviet Union); Ingo Krumbiegel (West Germany); Theodore Monod (France); John R. Napier (United Kingdom); and Sir Peter Scott (United Kingdom). Brief biographies appear below:

### Andre Capart:

Director (retired) of the Royal Institute of Natural Sciences of Belgium. He has also been on the faculty of the Catholic University of Louvain. A zoologist and marine biologist by training, Dr. Capart has been a strong supporter of cryptozoological research and a close collaborator of ISC President Bernard Heuvelmans for many years.

### Marjorie Courtenay-Latimer:

Former Curator of the East London Museum, South Africa. Her niche in cryptozoological history will always be assured by her finding of the coelacanth in late 1938. Miss Courtenay-Latimer brought the "strange fish" to the attention of J.L.B. Smith. Had it not been for her professional dedication and thoughtfulness, the coelacanth might still be regarded today as only a fossil animal. Miss Courtenay-Latimer continues to be active in cryptozoology, and lives in Witelbos, on the south Cape coast of South Africa.

### David James:

Former British Member of Parliament, David James was instrumental in setting-up and promoting the (now-defunct) Loch Ness Investigation Bureau in the 1960s, which was the first group to systematically collect data on Nessie events, and to deploy instrumentation at the loch. Mr. James is also well known as a World War II RAF hero, and for his book recounting his escapes from Nazi prisoner-of-war camps. He received the Distinguished Service Cross for his war service. He is now retired to Torosay Castle on Scotland's Isle of Mull, but continues to keep abreast of Loch Ness research.

### Marie-Jean Koffmann:

After obtaining a medical degree in Moscow, Dr. Koffmann took part in some of the first expeditions into unexplored Soviet mountain ranges, and was consequently made a captain in the Red Army when World War II arrived. She fought in the Battle of the Caucasus as second-in-command of a battalion of mountain riflemen. She also fought in



John R. Napier, distinguished primatologist and functional morphologist, elected as Honorary Member of the Society.

the Battle of Moscow, and received seven Soviet Orders. In 1958, Dr. Koffmann was elected a member of the Society of Geography of the Soviet Academy of Sciences. Since that time, she has been actively tracking the Almas (the Russian equivalent of Sasquatch) in both the Pamir and Caucasus ranges, and has spent the past 10 years in Sarmakovo (Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria), collecting all possible information on the supposed local Almas population.

### Ingo Krumbiegel:

A distinguished mammalogist and ecologist, Dr. Krumbiegel has served as Director of the Dresden Zoological Park and as Head of the Department of Zoology at the Hannover Museum, Federal German Republic. The author of many scientific papers and several books, he has done field work in both Asia and Latin America, where he described two new species -- the white-armed and white-legged *Colubus* monkey of Fernando Poo (*Colobus meternichi* Krumbiegel 1942), and the still dubious "wolf of the Andes," *Dasycyon hagenbecki* (1942). He has also given his attention to the reported African "dragons," and was the author of one of the very first works on cryptozoology (*Von Neuen und Unentdeckten Tierarten*, 1950).

### Theodore Monod:

Professor Emeritus of Ichthyology at the French National Museum of Natural History. In 1936, Dr. Monod founded IFAN, the French Institute of North Africa, based in Dakar, Senegal. He has since published its journal *African Notes*, which has contained much cryptozoological material related to Africa. He was one of the first Europeans to cross the Sahara Desert by camel, which he continues to do despite his 80 years, when he is not in his Museum laboratory. As a leading French zoologist, Dr. Monod is a member of the French Academy of Sciences.



**John R. Napier:**

A leading authority on human anatomy and functional morphology, Dr. Napier has been associated with the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine, London, Birkbeck College of the University of London, and the Smithsonian Institution, where he directed the primate biology program. His interest in the Yeti and Sasquatch led him to research the topic and write the classic book Bigfoot: The Yeti and Sasquatch in Myth and Reality (E.R. Dutton, 1973), in which he advocated the probable existence of a large unknown primate in North America responsible for Sasquatch reports (see Cryptoquote, this issue). Now retired, Dr. Napier has authored many technical papers on the evolution of walking, the anatomy of the hand, and, together with his wife Prue Napier, he compiled the classic Handbook of Living Primates (Academic Press, 1967), which continues to be the principal worldwide guidebook to the primates. Like Honorary member and fellow Scotsman David James, he is also retired to the Isle of Mull.

**Sir Peter Scott:**

An internationally-known naturalist and conservationist, Sir Peter has strongly supported the hypothesis that large, unknown animals inhabit Loch Ness. In December of 1975, he published a report (with Robert Rives) in Nature naming the unknown species Nessiteras rhombopteryx. Despite the lack of a type-specimen, usually required by the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature for describing an animal scientifically, Sir Peter felt it was important to name it in order to protect the species under the new British Wild Creatures Act. Besides having held senior positions with conservation organizations, such as the World Wildlife Fund and International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, Sir Peter is a widely acclaimed wildlife artist and the author of many illustrated nature books.

It should be noted that another individual was to be nominated (and probably elected) as an Honorary Member by the Board of Directors, but he died shortly before the Society was founded. The individual in question was Carleton S. Coon, novelist, poet, and one of the "deans" of American anthropology.

Dr. Coon's ethnographic and archaeological fieldwork early in the century established him as a leading researcher, and several of his books in later decades became classics (particularly The Origin of Races). Between the two World Wars he spent many years living with "armed and belligerent tribesmen," such as the rebellious Riffs of Morocco, and the Ghegs of Albania. In recent decades, much of his theoretical work relating to human origins and the races of man became highly controversial.

In cryptozoology, Dr. Coon strongly supported the authenticity of Sasquatch, and he was not afraid to state his position publicly. He participated in the University of British Columbia Sasquatch conference in 1978, delivering the keynote address. Dr. Coon was a member of the National Academy of Sciences, and he served as President of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists in 1961-62. He held long associations with Harvard University and the University of Pennsylvania. At his death in 1981, he was an Honorary Associate in Ethnology at Harvard's Peabody Museum. Dr. Coon also distinguished himself heroically in World War II serving as an agent of the U.S. Office of Strategic Services (OSS) behind enemy lines in North Africa, Corsica, and Italy, for which he was awarded the Legion of Merit.

Dr. Coon's involvement with cryptozoology capped a long and illustrious career in numerous fields of endeavour.

**CRYPTOLETTERS**

Dear Editor:

This concerns your article on the Ape Canyon incident (Newsletter, Spring, 1982). I wish to write in support of my departed father's account of the events.

It is impossible that the events described by my father, Fred Beck, could have been caused by a common hoax -- or even an uncommon one. I was close to my father, and believe me, his account is straight and true. I once had the privilege of hearing him and another man (one of the other miners) discuss their mutual 1924 experience. Yes, they were both talking about the same thing.

Truth may seem strange sometimes -- but it leaves its own record and impact, and will not go away.

Ronald A. Beck  
Kelso, Washington

Dear Editor:

In response to the letter from F.G. Wood, questioning my identification of the White River Monster as a large elephant seal (Newsletter, Summer, 1982), I wish to make the following points:

I have identified the White River Monster as most probably a large, old, male elephant seal only on the basis of descriptive features reported by eyewitness observers, and nothing more. I find the data compelling, and I don't care what the probabilities may appear to be as to how it got there. Somehow, an elephant seal did get into the White River.

Likewise, if an animal with the exact same description were reported on top of the Himalayas, I would also conclude that it was a male elephant seal. How it got there would not really be my problem! Of course, we should all be interested in trying to solve such a puzzle.

Surely the fact that the normal environment for elephant seals is salt water should not be the major reason for rejecting the identification. It is just this



aspect which makes it a cryptozoological matter; an animal in an unexpected place in an unexpected environment. The point is well illustrated in Ernest Hemingway's The Snows of Kilimanjaro, where he writes: "Kilimanjaro is a snow covered mountain, 19,710 feet high, and is said to be the highest mountain in Africa. Its western summit is called the Masai 'Ngaje Ngai', the House of God. Close to the western summit there is the dried and frozen carcass of a leopard. No one has explained what the leopard was seeking at that altitude." A neat cryptozoological problem.

Having made that point, let me discuss the probabilities. First, I agree that an escapee from a zoo, circus, or oceanarium is highly unlikely, and I never suggested that rather remote possibility. Nor would I venture to claim to be able to differentiate the species, northern or southern variety, on the basis of the anecdotal descriptive evidence alone. However, I favor the southern form as the best candidate for at least two reasons. The southern form, according to the literature, comes somewhat larger than the northern species, and would more easily account for the size and weight estimates of the White River Monster.

Secondly, the southern variety has been observed quite a distance north of its normal range in the Antarctic circumpolar region along both East and West Coasts of South America. A lone wandering male cruising up the Atlantic Coast of South America might eventually arrive at the Gulf of Mexico and the mouth of the Mississippi and continue upstream into the river. It would not need to traverse the Panama Canal at all. I will not repeat the other positive factors cited in my book, except to point out that both fresh and salt water forms exist in all four groups of marine mammals (cetaceans, sirenians, pinnipeds and lutra), demonstrating that adaptation to both fresh and salt water is possible within these groups. At some

point during evolutionary adaptation to other ecological niches, individuals must leave the beaten path that constitute their normal environment. One cannot say whether the White River example is an isolated case, or whether some sort of evolutionary process is involved.

Roy P. Mackal  
Department of Biology  
The University of  
Chicago  
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Editor:

I would like to make a clarification regarding the article "Lake Champlain Monster Draws Worldwide Attention" (Newsletter, Summer, 1982).

The article mentions our not tracking any unidentified targets in Lake Champlain. Actually, in June, 1970, Jim Kennard and myself recorded a "curious" reading of a possible Champ target while in Whallon Bay, on the New York side of the lake. We had deployed the side-scan towfish in a suspended fashion when a presumed animate object entered and left the "sonar curtain" while in approximately 175 feet of water. This target was distinct from boat and wake echoes.

Another interesting sonar episode occurred on May 1, 1982. A Champ eyewitness noted a sonar anomaly on his depth finder/sonar unit shortly after his 50 foot long houseboat passed over the spot where Champ had been viewed on the surface. Follow up on this sonar anomaly is now being conducted by the Lake Champlain Phenomena Investigation and sonar technicians.

Joseph W. Zarzynski  
Wilton, New York

Dear Editor:

I have always been fascinated by reports of unknown animals, and intrigued by efforts to investigate them. I was particularly interested in your articles on the Lake Champlain Monster and the many Canadian "Monster Lakes" (Newsletter, Summer, 1982).

An experience of mine is illuminating. I was duck hunting in a sculling boat, in which I lie flat on my back and propel the boat by means of an oar passing through the stern. The boat is covered with cedar boughs for camouflage. It is effective for approaching both waterfowl and other wildlife which does not suspect human presence.

Shortly before sunrise of a gray, cloudy day, I noticed a disturbance in the water some distance ahead of the boat. Because of the flat lighting conditions, it was difficult to determine distance. There was a distinct view of a head, then a rolling back, then a tail lashing clear of the water. This activity was repeated as I approached.

I was able to approach to within ten or fifteen yards of an otter which was fishing, or perhaps simply playing. It became curious about the boat at this point, and I feared that it might try to clamber aboard. Since there was a Labrador retriever inside, I did not want to become involved in the fracas which could ensue with such a vigorous creature in our midst, so I sat up and spoke to the animal, which immediately dove.

When I first observed the disturbance, it would not have been possible to say whether the animal was fifty yards or half a mile away. Under those lighting conditions, it would certainly have been possible for an observer to see a "lake monster," particularly if the observer wanted to see one. This is not to say that such creatures don't exist, but simply to reinforce what must be said repeatedly, that anecdotal observations without clear documentation must be scrutinized with great care.

I hope that there are sea monsters in the Atlantic, lake monsters in Lake Champlain, Mokele-Mbembe in Africa, and mountain lions in Maine.

Clinton B. Townsend  
Skowhegan, Maine



## CRYPTOQUOTE

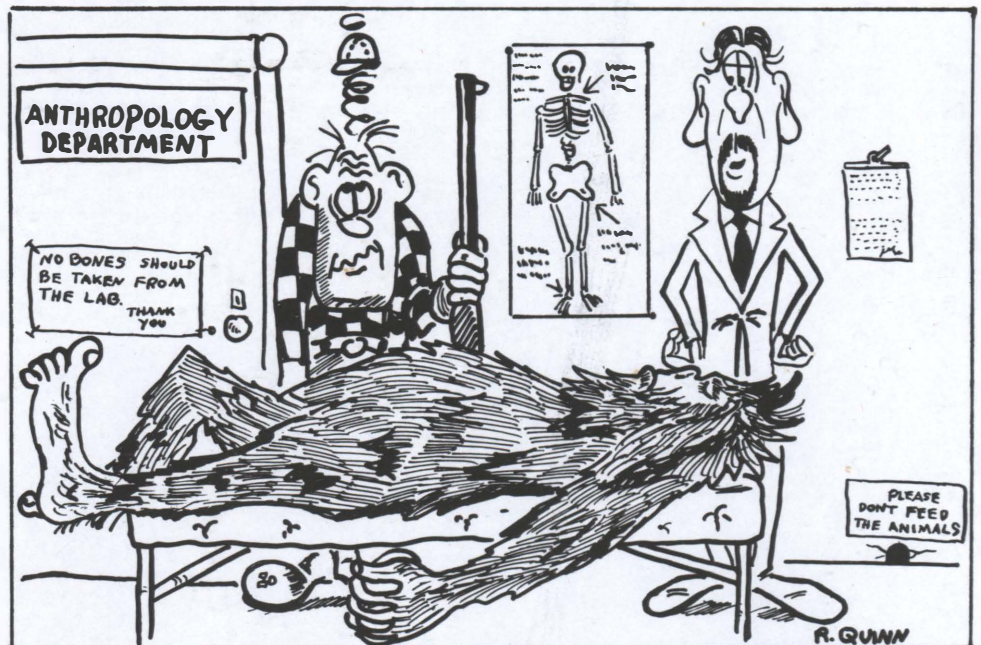
Sir Peter Medawar, F.R.S., has summed up the situation (in a separate context, let me hasten to add) in supremely simple terms: "Good scientists study the most important problems they think they can solve. It is, after all, their professional business to solve problems, not merely to grapple with them." However, while admitting the aptness of Medawar's definition of research when matters at the shadowy end of the scientific scale like Bigfoot ...are at issue, I am disturbed at its implications for research in general. It seems to me that the "art of the soluble" is a cynical kind of philosophy and a stultifying directive. To establishment scientists obliged to toe the line drawn by the terms of a research grant or by the dictates of the teamwork of departmental policy, it must provide comforting reassurance, but as a clarion call for the venturesome it sounds dismally flat. Solubility is surely the principle by which great discoveries have been made ...I can only see the "art of the soluble" as a sad reflection of the conformity of many scientists for whom a secure future, or tenure, is recompense enough for the loss of intellectual initiative.

...Bigfoot, the living animal, if it exists, must be

part of nature. Bigfoot, the legend, which undeniably exists, is part of human culture. Thus there are two sorts of evidence to consider, natural and cultural, and both have material and theoretical components...The Bigfoot tales do not qualify for a place in the triumvirate of legend, myth or folktale because they are not really tales at all. There

are no complicated constructions or sequences of events in the Bigfoot sagas, there is no social purpose, no fulfillment or trickery. Bigfoot stories are rather static affairs in which the narrative style of myth and legend is absent.

John Napier (From Bigfoot: The Yeti and Sasquatch in Myth and Reality. E.P. Dutton, 1973.)



"THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND OFFER, MR. FLEWCREST, BUT I'M AFRAID THAT BIGFOOT JUST DOESN'T FIT INTO ANY OF OUR EVOLUTIONARY FRAMEWORKS."

### The ISC Newsletter

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